

Remarks:

Claims 1-22 remain.

The claims have again been revised in order to avoid the rejection of all of the claims as anticipated by Koenig (U.S. 5,884,531).

The recitation of the shifter base assembly has been deleted in view of the Examiner's position that the connector housing of Koenig meets the term "shifter housing".

The claims now recite only the shifter base housing, which likewise is urged to be a term of art not readable on a connector housing.

However, claims 1 and 16 also recite that the shifter base housing defines an interior space which receives a shift rod, now recited in these claims.

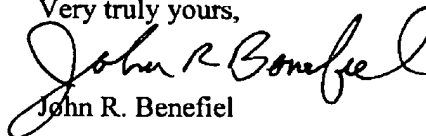
In claim 1, the shift rod extends across the interior space is completely underlain by the shift base housing.

In Koenig, the shift rod at most only has its one end within the connector housing.

In claim 16, the shift rod is also recited as extending across the interior space and completely underlain by the shifter base housing.

Accordingly, all of the claims are urged to distinguish over Koenig and recommendation of the rejection under 35 USC §102 (a) is respectfully requested.

Very truly yours,

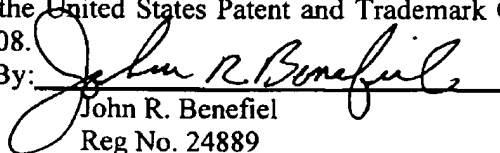

John R. Benefiel

Date: October 14, 2008

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

It is hereby certified that this correspondence, along with any items referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Facsimile No. 571-273-8300, on October 14, 2008.

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